

**H.B. No. 5531 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH
A MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
March 18, 2016**

**Matthew J. Rowe
Waterbury, CT**

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Matthew Rowe and I am a registered voter in Waterbury, CT.
I am here to testify on H.B. No. 5531 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF
PERSONS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

On the base of the Statue of Liberty, it says "give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses longing to be free." The idea and/or pink elephant in the room is forced medication. People think that if you take meds, it will cure all. It doesn't. I take medication regularly, but still hear voices. The patient bill of rights gives me the right to refuse meds. The majority of people with mental illness are in no way dangerous. I think back to World War II, when Hitler murdered many people with mental illness before he moved on to the Jewish Holocaust. He considered people with mental illness to be expendable. Eugenics is a failed idea. We live in a nation where freedom is everything. Please leave us the choice to take or not take our medication. I know scores of people with psychosis who do not take medication and are for the most part, happy people and pose no threat to anyone. I echo the great teacher Martin Luther King Jr. "The arc of the moral universe is long, but bends toward justice."

Vote no to H.B. 5531 and be free.

Thank you,

Matthew J. Rowe